



Department of Justice

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VIRGINIA MAN RECEIVES SIX-YEAR SENTENCE FOR TRAVELING TO OHIO FOR SEX WITH MINOR

COLUMBUS – A 32-year old Virginia man who met a central Ohio teenager on the Internet then traveled here to have sex with her was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 72 months imprisonment. James D. Wyant of Glade Springs, Virginia was also sentenced to five years of supervised release after his incarceration and will be required to register as a sex offender.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Timothy P. Murphy, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Worthington Police Chief Michael E. Mauger, and members of the Ohio Cybercrimes Task Force announced the sentence handed down by U.S. District Judge Michael H. Watson

Wyant pled guilty on August 7, 2006 to one count of interstate travel with intent to engage in sex with a juvenile. He admitted meeting a 15-year old girl in July 2005 through a profile she had posted on an Internet community website. For several months, he and the girl chatted online and exchanged email, eventually leading to daily conversations on the telephone. Wyant bought the girl phone cards and a cell phone to use. He visited Columbus on at least seven occasions between September 2005 and February 2006 and stayed overnight with the girl in local motels.

The girl's parents learned of the relationship in February 2006 and reported it to the Worthington Police, who seized the girl's computer and cell phone then contacted the FBI. FBI agents executed search warrants at Wyant's home on March 7, 2006 and, after further investigation, arrested Wyant on July 10, 2006.

"The case drives home the fact that predators lurk on the Internet," Lockhart said. "Keeping our children safe from them requires cooperation and communication between the communities, federal, state and local law enforcement."

Wyant's sentence also requires him to register as a sex offender in any state where he lives after he serves his prison term. During his period of supervised release, he must allow the

U.S. Probation Office to install monitoring software on any computer he owns or uses that has access to the Internet.

Lockhart commended the members of the Ohio Cybercrimes Task Force and Worthington Police Detectives who investigated the case and Assistant U.S. Attorney Deborah A. Solove, who prosecuted the case.

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